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**The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Federal Pell Grants
March 23, 2011**

Senate Bill SB30-10/11

**Authored by: Brandon DeMars, UM Student, Patrick Rhea, ASUM Senator,
and Jeff Edmunds, ASUM Senator**

Whereas the primary responsibility of the Associated Students of the University of Montana, as stated in its Constitution, is to serve as an advocate for the general welfare of the students (Article 2, Section 1);

Whereas the general welfare of the students of The University of Montana is promoted by assuring affordable access to a quality education for all;

Whereas it is not in the interest of students' general welfare for any student to be unable to afford to continue their education at The University of Montana;

Whereas six-thousand students at The University of Montana are eligible for Pell Grants;

Whereas more than 40% of students at the Mountain Campus of the University of Montana receive need-based assistance;

Whereas 85% of students at The University of Montana College of Technology campuses receive need-based financial assistance;

Whereas Pell Grants are awarded based on expected family contributions and income, having recipients submit a financial and documentable need for the specific assistance;

Whereas the proposed cuts to Pell Grant funding would result in 626 students at the University of Montana losing their eligibility to receive federal ~~education~~ *financial support for higher education*;

Whereas financial stability has been shown to play a direct role in the likelihood that a student will drop out of a higher education institution;

Whereas proposed cuts to the Pell Grant funding would detrimentally impact locally displaced workers and their families who are currently attending The University of Montana to acquire the skills needed to obtain future employment;

Whereas the United States House of Representatives has voted to cut Pell Grant funding by \$5.7 billion;

Whereas a decrease in enrollment due to financial limitations would negatively impact the Missoula economic community;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of The University of Montana publically opposes any reduction of Federal Pell Grants;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that the ASUM Senate directs the ASUM President to contact Senator Tester, Senator Baucus, and Representative Rehberg regarding ~~the~~ *this concern and directs the ASUM President to forward a copy of this resolution to the Montana Congressional Delegation.*

Passed by Committee: _____, 2011

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2011

Travis Suzuki,
Relations and Affairs Chair

Amanda Stovall,
Chair of the Senate